

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method for identifying users in a digital camera including an image photographing unit photographing an image of an object, an image processing unit performing a predetermined image processing to a photographed image input from the image photographing unit and outputting the processed image, a data storing unit temporarily storing the image output from the image processing unit, and a recording medium inserted in a recording medium interface and storing the digital image data, in which multiple users use the digital camera, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) after the digital camera is turned on according to a command by a user, receiving user identification information;
- (b) determining whether matched user identification information exists by comparing the input identification information and the user identification information stored in the digital camera;
- (c) if it is determined that the matched user identification information exists, a setting of the digital camera corresponding to the matched user identification information is loaded;
- (d) moving an image storing location to an existing folder used by the identified user;
- (e) the user performing work using the digital camera; and
- (f) storing a setting state of the camera as information intrinsic to the user according to a turn-off command by the user.

Claim 2 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein Step (d) comprises the sub-steps of:

- (d1) after Step (c), determining whether an existing folder used by the identified user exists;

(d2) if it is determined that the existing folder used by the identified user exists, moving to the existing folder; and

(d3) otherwise, creating a new folder for the user.

Claim 3 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising Step (g) of, if it is determined in Step (b) that the input identification information does not match the stored user information, determining whether the frequency of input of the user identification information exceeds a predetermined number and, if it is determined that the frequency does not exceed the predetermined number, moving to Step (a).

Claim 4 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising steps of:

(h) if it is determined in Step (b) that the input identification information does not match the stored user information, loading a setting of the digital camera as a basic setting; and

(i) creating a new user folder.

Claim 5 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a step of setting read protection with respect to an image file stored in the user folder, or to be stored therein, and the user folder, is provided after Step (e).

Claim 6 (original): A digital camera including an image photographing unit photographing an image of an object, an image processing unit performing a predetermined image processing to a photographed image input from the image photographing unit and outputting the processed image, and a data storing unit temporarily storing the image output from the image processing unit, which adopts a method for identifying users in the digital camera by obtaining user identification information and comparing the obtained user identification information with user information stored in the digital camera when multiple users use the digital camera, the digital camera comprising

a manipulation unit obtaining and outputting the user identification information by being manipulated by the user;

a display unit displaying a message requesting input of the user identification information, the user identification information input through the manipulation unit, and a setting state of the digital camera;

a non-volatile storing unit storing the user information and setting information intrinsic to the user with respect to the digital camera and outputting the stored user information and the setting information;

a recording medium inserted in a recording medium interface provided in the digital camera and storing the digital image data; and

a control unit comparing the user information stored in the non-volatile storing unit and the input user identification information and setting the digital camera according to the setting information stored in the non-volatile storing unit.

Claim 7 (original): The digital camera as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a read protection setting unit setting read protection with respect to an image file photographed by the user and input to the non-volatile storing unit or to be input thereto.

Claim 8 (new): A method for identifying and selecting user profiles for a digital camera, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving input user identification information,

determining whether a match exists between the input user identification information and stored user identification information,

if a match exists, loading at least one setting of the digital camera corresponding to the matched user identification information and assigning an image storage location to a folder designated for the user.

Claim 9 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of assigning an image storage location to a folder corresponding to the user identification information further comprises:

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ascertaining whether a folder already exists that corresponds to the user identification information,

if a folder already exists that corresponds to the user identification information, assigning an image storage location to the existing user folder, and

if a folder does not already exist that corresponds to the user identification information, creating a new folder and assigning the image storage location to the new user folder.

Claim 10 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein after the step of assigning an image storage location to a folder designated for the user, the method further comprises:
performing work with the digital camera.

Claim 11 (new): The method of claim 10, wherein performing work comprises an activity selected from the group comprising, taking a digital photograph, searching stored digital images, and changing the camera settings.

Claim 12 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein after the step of assigning an image storage location to a folder corresponding to the input user identification information, the method further comprises:
storing at least one setting of the digital camera as information corresponding to the user identification information.

Claim 13 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein if the input user identification information does not match the stored user identification information the method further comprises:

determining if the number of non-matching user input identification information attempts exceeds predetermined limit,

if the number of attempts does not exceed the predetermined limit, restarting the input process from the first step of receiving a user input identification information, and

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if the number of attempts does exceed the predetermined limit, loading at least one default setting of the camera and creating a new user folder.

Claim 14 (new): The method of claim 8, further comprising:
 setting read protection with respect to an image file or folder.

Claim 15 (new): A digital camera comprising:
 a user input device,
 a non-volatile data storing unit,
 a control unit that adjusts the digital camera settings according to setting data stored in the non-volatile data storing unit, where input user identification information corresponds with stored user identification information and related setting data,
 a recording medium, and
 a display unit.

Claim 16 (new): The digital camera of claim 15, further comprising:
 a read protection setting unit.

Claim 17 (new): A digital camera comprising:
 means for inputting user identification information,
 means for storing user identification information,
 means for determining whether a match exists between input user identification information and stored user identification information,
 means for storing setting information intrinsic to a specific user,
 means for loading at least one setting of the digital camera corresponding to the matched user identification information, and
 means for assigning an image storage location to a folder designated for the user, wherein said folder exists on a means for recording digital data.

Claim 18 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:

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means for setting read protection with respect to an image file or folder.

Claim 19 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
 means for taking digital photographs of an object.

Claim 20 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
 means for processing digital images.

Claim 21 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
 means for temporarily storing processed image data.

Claim 22 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
 means for displaying input user identification information.

Claim 23 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
 means for displaying applied settings of the digital camera.

Claim 24 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
 means for displaying a digital image.